

ACTION OF MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS,

IN FAVOR OF THE

Introduction of Homœopathy into the Army and Navy.

24358

I. Massachusetts Hom. Med. Society.

The following statement and resolution were unanimously adopted at a recent meeting of the Massachusetts State Homœopathic Medical Society:

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States,
in Congress assembled:*

The Massachusetts Homœopathic Medical Society beg leave to state, that from New England alone petitions for the admission of Homœopathic Surgeons into the Army and Navy have recently been presented to Congress, signed by more than thirty thousand legal voters, embracing a large number of persons in high official position, persons eminent for intelligence, respectability and wealth, and representing all classes and interests of society. Numerously signed petitions of a similar character have been presented from other sections of the loyal States, and also from various regiments now in the service of the Government.

This Society would further represent, that Homœopathy is a well-tried and demonstrated system of medical practice, based upon an established law of nature, and has stood the test of rigid and accurate observation in Europe and in this country, in public institutions and in private practice, among the most discriminating and conservative classes, and is now fully established in the confidence of every intelligent community:—That in Europe it has no less than *twelve* hospitals, and numerous dispensaries, and in this country is practiced by more than three thousand five hundred educated physicians, has five legally authorized Medical Colleges, and supports several hospitals and dispensaries:—That Homœopathy is, by the action of various Medical Boards, virtually ex-

cluded from the Army. The Medical Commission of Massachusetts has by vote declared, that it cannot recommend any surgeons believing in it; the Medical Commissions of other States have in a discourteous manner refused to examine Homœopathic Surgeons; and the Army Medical Board at Washington has sedulously endeavored to exclude from the Army all Homœopathic Surgeons, and from the Army Hospitals all Homœopathic practice.

And as, in many of the regiments now in the service, a large number have been accustomed to, and prefer Homœopathic treatment, therefore, this Society respectfully and earnestly request Congress to make such provision as shall meet the wants of this class, and would recommend the following propositions:—

1st. Whenever any considerable portion of the officers and soldiers of any brigade desire to have a Homœopathic Surgeon attached to the brigade, such additional Surgeon shall be appointed.

2d. Whenever a majority in any regiment desire a Homœopathic Surgeon and Assistant Surgeon, such appointments shall be made.

3d. Wherever Army Hospitals are established, a fair proportion of them shall be devoted to Homœopathic treatment.

4th. As allopathic surgeons are by their education and position necessarily disqualified for intelligently examining candidates in Homœopathic medicine, an additional Examining Board shall be appointed for this purpose, composed of surgeons skilled in Homœopathic medicine.

As in this emergency of our country the utmost catholicity is very justly and properly allowed in all the religious and political appointments of the army, this Society deem it in the highest degree intolerant to exclude thoroughly educated and competent Homœopathic surgeons, whose appointment would, by exciting emulation, naturally serve to elevate the standard of medical skill, and secure for the soldiers increased care and attention.

Resolved, That a copy of the above statement be sent to Hon. Henry Wilson of the United States Senate, and Hon. B. F. Thomas of the House of Representatives, with the request that it be presented to both Houses of Congress.

II. Miami Hom. Med. Association.

WHEREAS, The exclusion of Homœopathic physicians from the army and navy of the United States being illegal and unjust, and thus violating every principle of humanity, by forcing a system of medical practice upon those who utterly discard and refuse the

same when at home, and thereby preventing a large class of intelligent, and competent surgeons from engaging in this important department of practice; and

WHEREAS, Our friends at home and in the army and navy are feeling indignant at the injustice of such illegal arrangement, we, the members of the Miami Homœopathic Medical Association, do present to the Western Institute of Homœopathy the following resolutions, expressing the sentiments and feelings of the Homœopathic physicians of this great valley:

Resolved, That the Homœopathic physicians of the United States do, in a body, join in one loud and solemn protest against the continuation of such injustice; and that we in a suitable document appeal to the proper authorities that we be granted a due proportion of the medical and surgical practice in the army and navy of the United States, during the present war, and for all time to come.

Resolved, That we deem this just to our friends, who are exposing themselves to extreme dangers, and who will call us to an account for our apparent silence, unless we act with energy, perseverance and power.

III. Western Institute of Homœopathy.

In view of the comparatively superior benefits to suffering humanity that follow the introduction of the Homœopathic system of medicine, wherever it has been practiced, and

Whereas, The brave defenders of our common nationality demand of the government all the means and appliances that the most enlightened and progressive medical practice can bestow, in consideration for the risk to health and limb that is cheerfully yielded for the preservation and perpetuation of our national existence, therefore

Be it Resolved, That the Western Institute of Homœopathy does hereby pledge itself to use all due diligence and effort to secure to the army and navy of the United States the introduction of this beneficent system of practice.

The passage of the resolutions was strenuously urged by Drs. Franklin, Long, Pratt, Douglas, Belding, Hale, Small and others, who were very earnest in their denunciation of the allopathic physicians, and the policy of the administration that excludes Homœopathic physicians from the army and navy.

The resolutions offered by Dr. Franklin were then unanimously adopted.

Dr. Franklin moved that a committee of three, members of the Institute, be chosen to take general charge of this matter ; and that the committee have power to appoint sub-committees in every State, city and town throughout the country.

The motion was unanimously carried, and Drs. E. C. Franklin, of St. Louis, G. D. Beebe, of Chicago, and S. R. Beckwith, of Cleveland, were chosen as such committee.

IV. Hom. Med. Society State of New York.

Resolved, That the Homœopathic Medical Society of the State of New York would respectfully urge upon Congress the importance of passing a bill, at its present session, making Homœopathic physicians equally eligible with other practitioners for the appointment of surgeons in the army and navy, for the following reasons :

1. *The extensive diffusion and general recognition of Homœopathy.*

Homœopathy is now practiced in all portions of the civilized world ; Homœopathic journals are published in almost all European languages ; Homœopathic hospitals and dispensaries are acknowledged and supported by governments in various countries in Europe, and many of these countries have sanctioned and encouraged this mode of practice by special legislative enactments ; it has its professors in European universities, and its numerous court physicians at continental courts, and while almost unknown at the commencement of this century, has since been spreading with a rapidity unparalleled in the history of medicine. Homœopathy has also for many years been generally known in this country, and now numbers its practitioners by thousands, and its adherents by millions, a very large proportion of whom are among the most intelligent and wealthy classes in every community in the loyal States, whose means and influence are now given to the administration in all its measures.

2. *As an act of justice to a large number of soldiers in the army and navy, who prefer the Homœopathic treatment.*

Many thousands of our citizens who are accustomed to Homœopathic treatment are enlisted in the regular and volunteer forces, and consider it one of the most severe privations of the service

that they are prevented from enjoying the benefits of this humane method of treatment. While these citizens are devoting their lives to the service of their country, in this her hour of peril, they have a right to ask that, when stricken down by disease or casualty, they may have that system of practice in which alone they have confidence.

3. *On account of the far larger percentage of cures in all hospital diseases under the Homœopathic than under the Allopathic treatment.*

The most reliable statistics have shown that the average mortality of hospital disease is only *six per cent.* under Homœopathic, while it amounts to *ten per cent.* under Allopathic treatment, and that the proportion of deaths from inflammation of the lungs is *three* times as great, and that from typhus fever twice as great under Allopathic treatment as it is under Homœopathic; and, that even of those who do recover under the former, the duration of disease is far longer than under the latter. Is it then of no importance that *four* out of every *ten* of our brave soldiers, who now die, might be saved?

4. *On account of the recognized legal status of Homœopathy in the several States.*

The Homœopathic profession has in most, if not in all the loyal States, the same recognized legal status as the Allopathic, is composed of equally well qualified and well educated physicians—graduates of legally incorporated medical colleges, most of whom were formerly practitioners in, and are now converts from, the Allopathic school. To the knowledge of Allopathy thus acquired, they have merely superadded a knowledge of Homœopathy, and believing the latter the more successful method, choose to practice it. The States of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and Missouri, have each Homœopathic colleges within their limits, incorporated by their respective Legislatures with all the rights of Allopathic colleges, including the privilege of conferring diplomas on their graduates, entitling them to practice medicine and surgery. Under State laws, therefore, Homœopathists are equally eligible to all appointments within the gift of the government as other physicians. There is no more valid reason for any discrimination in favor of the Allopathic, and adverse to the Homœopathic profession in respect to appointments in the army and navy, than there would be in refusing a chaplain a commission because not a member of a particular religious sect.

5. *It will elevate the standard of medical skill in the army and navy.*

The introduction of Homœopathy will afford the country an opportunity of witnessing the benefits of this mode of treatment as compared with that now employed; and, by creating a generous emulation, will elevate the standard of medical skill, and cause a better system of practice to prevail even in that portion of the army which remains under the mode of treatment at present in use.